

Please add new claim 23 as follows:

Claim 23 (new) The mutant of claim 18, wherein said factor is obtained by

- (a) culturing the mutant of said *Bacillus thuringiensis* subsp. *kurstaki* strain to produce said factor;
- (b) recovering a supernatant of the culture of said mutant of step (a); and
- (c) isolating said factor from said supernatant of step (b).

Remarks

The Present Invention

The invention is directed to a mutant *Bacillus* strain which produces a factor which potentiates the pesticidal activity of a *Bacillus*-related pesticide, a chemical pesticide and/or a virus with pesticidal properties, in which such a factor is obtained in larger amounts or has a greater potentiating activity compared to the parental strain, and methods for producing such mutant strains. The invention also relates to methods for obtaining the factor.

The new set of claims and specification modifications introduced by the present amendment do not constitute new matter, but rather repeats claims presented and modifications to the specification made during the prosecution of the parent application, U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/013,375.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification by the current amendment. The seven attached pages are captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made".